SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER S.A.L.T. TIMES July 2006 Sheriff Garry E. Lucas

Senior Citizen Exemption Program

In Clark County, we have an appreciation of our seniors as valued members of our community. They have contributed in many ways, and many are still contributing, to the Clark County we know today.

This appreciation is also reflected in state law, and what is commonly known as the "senior exemption program." The intention of this program is to allow our seniors to remain in their homes as long as they choose in spite of rising property taxes. The exemption program "freezes" the assessed value of the applicant's primary residence and reduces the tax amount due based on the applicant's level of income. The exemption program is a gift, and these taxes are not repaid.

The basic requirements are: being **61 years** of age or

older (or being disabled, or having a 100% VA disability), owning and residing in your home, and your taxable and non-taxable income not exceeding \$35,000. Currently, your tax bill is calculated

multiplying assessed

value of your home by your tax rate. The exemption program freezes the value of your residence,

exempts all voter-approved levies (such as school bonds) and may exempt a portion of regular levies. If your household income is \$25,000 or less, you are exempt from regular levies on the first \$60,000, or 60% of your home's assessed value, whichever is greater. When your household income is between \$25,001 and

\$30,000, you are exempt from regular levies on \$50,000 or 35% of the assessed value, whichever is greater, not to exceed \$70,000 of the assessed value. This results in

"freezing" the value of your residence and providing you with a reduction in your property taxes. Although the assessed value of your home may continue to

increase, your tax bill will be calculated using the "frozen"

To request an application form, or to get further information, telephone Clark County Department of Assessment and GIS at (360) 397-2391. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. On Wednesday office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Missing Project Lifesaver Client Found

For several years, Sgt. how close he or she is to the Craig Hogman, a veteran transmitter based on the of the Clark County Sheriff's strength of the signal. Office, has been spreading the word about Project Sgt. Hogman knew that time Lifesaver, a program in which was critical. As soon as Sgt. Alzheimer's patients, and Hogman arrived in the La others who are at risk of Center area, he started to getting lost, are outfitted with drive north toward Woodland a small transmitter which aids because witnesses had searchers in locating them in reported possibly seeing the event they become lost. Bong Soon O Since 2001, when the program was implemented, no one who has been fitted with a transmitter has actually gone missing.

That all changed on May 21st, 2006 at about 2:00 PM when Sgt. Hogman received an emergency call that a Project Lifesaver client was missing. He was told that an 87-yearold woman, Bong Soon O of La Center, was missing and had not been seen for over an hour. Sgt. Hogman, who was off-duty, alerted area search and rescue teams of the mission and then

responded to the search area with a mobile locator tracking

Project Lifesaver is based on a system in which the client wears a bracelet outfitted with receiving a strong signal so a transmitter. The transmitter he knew Bong Soon O had to emits a signal which can be picked up by a mobile locator of heading west from Sgt. tracking system which contains a receiver. The receiver emits an audible signal which tells the operator road. Thankfully, Bong Soon

walking in that direction. Within minutes of starting his search, Sgt. Hogman's tracking gear started to receive a

faint signal that grew stronger as he drove

north on NW Pacific Highway. Ridgefield Police Officer Cathy Doriot was in the area to assist in the search, and based upon the strong tracking signal, she decided to check a small rural road which runs west off of NW Pacific Highway. This intersection was in the area where Sgt. Hogman was be close by. Within moments Hogman's location, Officer

Doriot located Bong Soon O

at the dead end of the rural

O was unhurt and was quickly reunited with her family.

> This case dramatically illustrates the effectiveness of the Project Lifesaver program. Currently there are approximately 16 families who are enrolled in Project Lifesaver but it is believed there are many more families

who could benefit from becoming involved in this lifesaving effort. Project Lifesaver is not limited to only Alzheimer's patients but may also be appropriate for

Sgt. Hogman, Bong Soon O and have a tendency Officer Doriot

other clients who to wander. Other clients

who might benefit are autistic children, children with Downs Syndrome, or people suffering from traumatic brain injuries.

If you know someone who might benefit from Project Lifesaver, please contact Sgt. Hogman at (360) 397-2211. Sgt. Hogman will be speaking about Project Lifesaver at the picnic on July 17th (see back for picnic details). Additional information regarding Project Lifesaver can be found on the web at www.projectlifesaver.org.



Connections Café Opens

"Healthy choices for a healthy lifestyle"

onnections Café is not your ordinary coffee shop. Located in the new Firstenburg Community Center, the Connections Café offers a variety of healthy menu items to choose from including salads, wraps, energy bars and much

The Connections Café is a project of Volunteer Connections (which includes RSVP and the Volunteer Center). Volunteer Connections is a program of the Human Services Council, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve people's lives by connecting them to opportunities, information and services that respond to their individual and family needs. Thousands of people in our community have a better quality of life because of the services these programs provide.

Proceeds from the café will go to support services, connecting volunteers to assignments with local non-profit organizations, and volunteer projects which include an AmeriCorps*VISTA program, the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program, Volunteer Pen Pal program, America Reads program, and the local 1-800-Volunteer website.

This café reflects a growing trend in the non-profit world, developing fundraising ventures that in turn support community services. This has been driven by the diminishing financial resources while the demands for services continue to grow. Other similar projects in our community include the Holiday Shop and Devine Consign, an upscale furniture re-sale shop that supports the Nonprofit Network and other

Connections Café local non-profits.

Firstenburg **Community Center** 700 NE 136th Ave. Vancouver, WA

Interested in volunteering?

Call Bobbi Casanova at 360-624-9025

Second Segment of Commercials Airs on CVTV

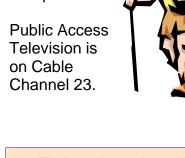
ast summer the Clark Lounty Sheriff's Office aired it's first safety commercial on CVTV, public access television. The first segment featured Deputy Drew who focused on water

The second segment, which began airing in June, will offer safety tips on outdoor safety for hikers, campers and

outdoor enthusiasts. The safety commercials were created to be a service to the community by providing helpful tips for a safe and enjoyable summer. "This is an excellent opportunity to assist the community using

our local media services," stated Detective Phil Sample.

Television is on Cable Channel 23.



To be placed on the mailing list to receive the free S.A.L.T. Times Newsletter, call the Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at 397-2211 ext. 3380 or e-mail Kasey. Frazier@clark.wa.gov

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